

# FACT SHEET



## **Kem-Pest Laboratories Cape Girardeau, MO**

**November 1999**

### **Introduction**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to monitor the Kem-Pest Laboratories site. EPA recently completed its five-year review of the site as required by the Superfund law. The five-year review is done to make sure the site remains safe. Based on the review, the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

The site is approximately three miles northeast of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The site occupies approximately six acres of land in a predominantly rural setting. EPA managed the site in two cleanup phases. The first phase addressed the contaminated soils and sediments. The second phase addressed the contaminated ground water and the building on the site.

The site was identified as a potentially uncontrolled hazardous waste site and was placed on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) on October 4, 1989. The NPL is EPA's list of sites eligible for remedial cleanup under the Superfund program.

### **Site Background**

The Kem-Pest Laboratories building was constructed in 1964. The company operated

from 1965 to 1977 and formulated liquid pesticides, granular insecticide, granular herbicide, and pesticide dust in the building. Previous formulation and waste disposal practices caused contamination on the site. Generated wastes were disposed of in an on-site lagoon. Pesticide production and disposal stopped in 1977. The lagoon was backfilled with clay in 1981.

The contaminants of concern are heptachlor, chlordane, and endrin in the ground water. Pesticides including aldrin and dieldrin, and various volatile organic compounds were found on and below the surface.

### **Site Activities**

EPA divided the site into two operable units (OUs). OU1 addressed the soil and sediment contamination. OU2 addressed the building and ground water contamination. EPA signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for OU1 in September 1989 and signed the OU2 ROD in December 1990. The RODs explained EPA's selected remedies to address the contamination on the site.

**OU1/Soils and Sediments:** EPA selected a remedy to excavate and dispose all contaminated soil and sediment. Approximately 6,075 cubic yards of contaminated soils and sediments were

excavated. The excavated materials were disposed of at a federally approved off-site land disposal facility. Clean soil was placed in the excavated areas. The excavated areas were seeded with grass to minimize soil erosion. These activities were completed in 1993.

OU2/Ground water and building: EPA's selected remedy for OU2 concluded that the ground water did not require any cleanup activities, except continued monitoring. Under the ROD, the building would be decontaminated and the ground water would be monitored for five years to ensure that the remedy was protective.

The OU2 ROD was amended in February 1993 selecting a new remedy for the contaminated building. The building would now be decontaminated, demolished and building debris taken off-site for proper disposal. EPA moved quickly to initiate the construction activities, but was stopped due to litigation between the property owner and the federal government. The litigation was settled in 1995, and the cleanup activities were completed in September 1996.

### **Five Year Reviews**

The ground water has been monitored for four years and no significant concerns have been found. Based on the evaluation of the information, EPA believes that the remedial action is protective of human health and the environment and the site remains safe.

The final year of ground water monitoring was performed in September 1999. The results are still pending. Once all the ground water monitoring data have been analyzed, EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will decide if any further actions are necessary at the site.

Since contaminants remain at the site above health-based levels and the site's use is restricted due to the contaminants, EPA will conduct another five-year review in 2004.

### **Additional Information**

EPA encourages community members to review the Five-Year Review report for the Kem-Pest Laboratories site at the following information repository, during normal business hours:

Cape Girardeau Public Library  
711 North Clark  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

If you have additional questions about this fact sheet, or the site please contact:

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